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Appl. No. 10/576,740
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2010

Attorney Docket: P71246US0

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): A fuel cell separator that has a power generating device interposed between the fuel cell separator and another fuel cell separator, the power generating device having an electrolyte film and electrode films,

the fuel cell separator comprising:

a separator main body that includes a gas channel, a manifold that penetrates the separator main body in a fuel cell stacking direction, and a groove that connects the gas channel to the manifold;

a plate member that covers an opening of the groove; and

a gasket that is made of an elastic material, prevents gas leakage from the manifold to the outside, and is formed in a region on the surfaces of the separator main body and the plate member, the region surrounding the manifold,

wherein the plate member has notches or through holes, when the gasket is being integrally molded with the region on the surface of the plate member containing the notches or the through holes, part of the elastic material fills the notches or the through holes, thereby increasing the fixing strength of the plate member to a predetermined position on the opening of the groove, and

wherein the separator main body has concave portions at the locations corresponding to the notches or the through holes formed in the plate member; and

~~when~~ ~~wherein~~ the gasket is ~~being~~ integrally molded with the region on the surface of the plate member containing the notches or the through holes, part of the elastic material also fills the concave portions, thereby increasing the fixing strength of the plate member to the predetermined position on the opening of the groove.

Claims 4 – 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): The fuel cell separator of Claim 3, wherein the diameter of at least one of the concave portions is larger than the diameter of its corresponding through hole.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The fuel cell separator of Claim 7, wherein the diameter of each of the concave portion is larger than the diameter of each of the through holes.

Claim 9 (new): The fuel cell separator of Claim 3, wherein part of the elastic material that forms the gasket formed on the surface of the plate member, protrudes from the back surface of the plate member through the notches or the through holes, thereby forming convex portions, the convex portions are engaged with the concave portions formed in the separator main body, thereby securing the plate member to a predetermined position on the opening of the groove in the separator main body.

Claim 10 (new): The fuel cell separator of Claim 3, wherein the plate member contains the through hole in the middle of the plate member.

Claim 11 (new): The fuel cell separator of Claim 9, wherein the plate member contains the through hole in the middle of the plate member.